

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 YAOUND 03523 260953Z

21 11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CPR-02 ST-01 PER-05 AID-20 CU-04

L-03 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /090 W
----- 084435

R 250910Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 3523

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN,CM

SUBJECT: PROBLEMS IN IMPORTING DUTY FREE POVS

1. SUMMARY. TO TIGHTEN UP PREVIOUSLY LEAKY SYSTEM, GURC NOW RE-QUIRING MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PER-SONNEL, AS CONDITION FOR DUTY FREE IMPORTATION POVS TO PRODUCE LOCAL BANK GUARANTY PAYMENT IMPORT CUSTOMS DUTIES SHOULD VEHICLE IMPROPERLY ENTER DOMESTIC MARKET WHEN OWNER DEPARTS CAMEROON. TO OBTAIN NECESSARY BANK GUARANTY OTHER THAN THRU BLOCKED PRIV-ATE ACCOUNT IN IMPORTING OWNERS NAME, EMBASSY WOULD HAVE IN TURN TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY VIS-A-VIS BANK FOR ANY EVENTUAL DUTIES OF VEHICLE NOT PROPERLY DISPOSED OF.

ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS (1) DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE RE ACCEPTABILITY OF NEW GURC REGULATION FROM STANDPOINT DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATION AND (2) IF APPROPRIATE, AUTHORIZATION COMPLY WITH IT FOR USG PERSONNEL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MID-SEPTEMBER CAMEROON CUSTOMS DIRECTOR ISSUED ORDERS TO CUSTOM OFFICERS (WITH COPY TO FONMIN) THAT PERMITS FOR CUSTOMS-FREE TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF VEHICLES FOR DIPLOMATS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED ROUTINE APPLICATION FROM EMBASSIES OR AID MISSIONS WOULD HENCEFORTH BE GRANTED ONLY IF EVENTUAL DUTIES IF ANY GUARANTIED BY LOCAL BANK. ACTING DEAN (NIGERIAN) AND LATER DEAN (FRENCH) OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS MADE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 YAOUND 03523 260953Z

DEMACHES TO FONMIN SECGEN ON BASIS PRACTICAL EFFECTS SUCH A

PROCEDURE WOULD CREATE (PROBLEM IN RECRUITING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL) AND CONSISTENCY WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RIGHTS AND PRACTICES, FONMIN SECGEN REPLIED VIOLATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY NUMEROUS WITH CUSTOMS FREE VEHICLES FILTERING ILLEGALLY ONTO LOCAL MARKET. FONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO MADE POINT THAT FINANCE MINISTRY IN STRONG POSITION VIS-A-VIS FONMIN IN INSTITUTING NEW SYSTEM. THEY HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THAT FONMIN IN PROCESS OF PREPARING CIRCULAR NOTE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OFFICIALLY INFORMING THEM OF NEW SYSTEM. MEANWHILE CUSTOMS HAS BEEN ACTING ON BASIS NEW REGULATION, WITH RESULT THAT DESPITE GRIPING, SEVERAL MAJOR EMBASSIES AND 10'S HAVE COMPLIED.

3. SYSTEM WORKED OUT BY OTHER EMBASSIES WITH ONLY LOCAL BANK WILLING PROVIDE GUARANTIES (BIAO) AND ONE THAT IT IS WILLING EXTEND TO US, IS THAT EMBASSY (OR 10) SEND BANK LETTER FOR EACH VEHICLE BEING IMPORTED REQUESTING BANK GUARANTY, EMBASSY ASSURES BANK THAT IT IN TURN WILL GUARANTY BANK ""GOOD CONCLUSION"" OPERATION, I.E. BANK WILL BE REIMBURSED FOR ANY CUSTOMS CHARGES IT MAY HAVE TO PAY IN CASE VEHICLE NOT RE-EXPORTED, SOLD TO ANOTHER CUSTOMS PRIVILEGED PURCHASER, OR SOLD ONTO LOCAL MARKET WITH CUSTOMS DULY ACQUITTED. FOR THIS SERVICE, BANK CHARGES ONE EIGHTH OF ONE PER CENT PER MONTH OF AMOUNT GUARANTEED. (CUSTOMS AMOUNTS TO 50 PER CENT OF CIF VALUE FOR EEC-ORIGIN VEHICLES, 90 PERCENT FOR US VEHICLES.)

4. EMBASSY HAS UNTIL NOW NOT HAD ANY PARTICULAR IMPORT CASES TO FACE. WE NOW EXPECTING ARRIVAL IMMINENTLY OF SEVERAL POVS.

5. DEPARTMENT REQUESTED PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFO, GUIDANCE, AND AUTHORITY AS APPROPRIATE:

(A) HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES APPLIED THIS KIND OF GUARANTY SYSTEM? DOES IT VIOLATE OR IS IT INCOMPATIBLE WITH DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES AND/OR RIGHTS, WHETHER UNDER VIENNA CONVENTION OR OTHER AUTHORITY?

(B) IF THERE APPEARS NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE BUT TO JOIN OTHER EMBASSIES IN COMPLYING, CAN EMBASSY PROVIDE LETTER TO BANK ALONG LINES INDICATED PARA. 3 FOR DIRECT-HIRE USG PERSONNEL OF OUR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 YAOUND 03523 260953Z

VARIOUS AGENCIES (STATE, AID, USIA, PC, USPHS)? WHAT KIND OF PROCEDURE FOR REGUARANTY TO USG WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PROTECT USG E.G., LETTER FROM EMPLOYEE AUTHORIZING DEDUCTION FROM SALARY AND OTHER MONIES DUE HIM. IF TRANSACTION EVENTUALLY RESULTS IN OBLIGATION TO PAY UNREQUIRED CUSTOMS DUTIES? WE WOULD OF COURSE SET UP SYSTEM LOCALLY FOR ASSURING PAYMENT OF THE ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PER CENT CONTINUING SERVICE CHARGES BY EMPLOYEES INVOLVED AND ALSO REINFORCE OUR CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES TO INSURE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE THAT

NO VEHICLES SLIP THROUGH.

6. WE ALSO HAVE OTHER CATEGORIES AMCIT PERSONNEL E.G. AID CONTRACT AND FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS ON WHOM NEW IMPORT REGULATION WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT. THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENTS MADE TO COVER THEM ALSO THROUGH EMBASSY GUARANTY BANK. WE WILL REPORT BY SEPTTEL RE AID CONTRACT PERSONNEL WITH REFERENCE THIS MESSAGE.
MOORE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DUTY FREE ENTRY, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973YAOUND03523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731011/aaaaahog.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROBLEMS IN IMPORTING DUTY FREE POVS
TAGS: EGEN, ATRN, CM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005